This class exposes students to the history of cities across a broad spectrum of time and space. Our level of analysis is both larger and more local than traditional narratives framed by the nation state. With a close attention to place, we examine the construction of civic identities, the policing of social behavior and the scope for new practices of selfhood in the anonymous arena of the modern city. We are interested in the contribution of cities to the building of the modern world: in terms of trade and industry; consumer and political culture; the formation of diverse categories of gender, race and class; technology and built form; and practices of power and social control. Our canvas is a large one: we travel from east to west, from north to south, from metropole to colony, from capital to port. We visit leading “global cities” like London, Paris, New York, and Tokyo. We walk oriental streets in Shanghai, Mumbai, and Jakarta. Our home city of Chicago features in discussions of industrialization, environmental management, and racial segregation. Always our focus is on connection and interchange. How are cities built by global interactions, and how do they contribute—as entrepôts of trade, as receptacles for migrants—to the forces of globalization? Finally, how does a comparative and global approach shed new light on concepts like “modernity,” industrialization, “freedom” and diversity that have patterned of our own (western) historical trajectories?
GRADING

25% 5-sentence summaries of readings each week
25% Class participation (includes leading or co-leading at least two class discussions)
15% Book review (4-5 pages)
35% Final essay (~15 pages).

100% Total

It is crucial that you finish the assigned readings for each class and come ready with thoughtful questions and comments. At the beginning of each class, please turn in a 5-sentence summary of the reading for that week. This will help focus your thoughts for class discussion and will prove very useful when it comes time for field exams.

Participation in class is fundamental to your intellectual and professional development, and accounts, accordingly, for an important component of your final grade. Each discussion will be lead or co-lead by one of you. Class leaders should meet with me before class to discuss the main questions and topics relevant to the reading.

The book review should be on one of the assigned readings. You will be expected to provide a critical (though not necessarily negative) assessment of the book’s historiographical contribution and analysis of evidence. This will be due at the beginning of the class in which the book is discussed. Try not to leave this to the last week!

Please consult with me for the final paper. I recommend you produce a historiographical review essay that further examines a theme discussed in class by incorporating outside readings. PhD students have the option of producing an annotated syllabus on a topic related to the themes of this course for use in academic job applications. On a case-by-case basis I may permit you to write a research paper on a topic that intersects with the themes of this course, though be warned that this may entail much more work than the other two options.

CLASS SCHEDULE

January 15
MODERN CITIES

January 22

January 29
James Scott, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition have Failed* (Yale University Press, 1999), pp. 53-63. CR

February 5

February 12

DISCIPLINARY CITIES

February 19

February 26
Patrick Joyce, *Rule of Freedom: Liberalism and the Modern City* (Verso, 2003), Introduction, chapter 2. CR

SPRING BREAK NO CLASS ON MARCH 5!
March 12
James Scott, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition have Failed* (Yale University Press, 1999), chapter 4.

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**COLONIAL CITIES**

March 19

March 26

**EASTER BREAK NO CLASS ON APRIL 2!**

April 9

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**DIVERSE CITIES**

April 16

April 23

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Final papers due Thursday April 30th